No. IV.

PAPERS

RESPECTING THE

NEGOCIATION

FOR A RENEWAL OF THE

East-India Company's Exclusive Trade.

PRINTED BY THE COURT OF DIRECTORS
FOR THE
INFORMATION OF THE PROPRIETORS.

No. 4.

LIST of Papers relpecting the Negociation for a Renewal of the Eaft-India Company's Exclufive Trade, printed by the Court of Directors for the Information of the Proprietors.

No. I.

Letter from the Right Honourable Henry Dundas to the Chairman, dated the 26th March, 1793, enclofing

No. II.

Reſolutions referred to in the above letter.

No. III.

Letter from the Right Honourable Henry Dundas to the Chairman, dated the 27th March, 1793.

No. IV.

Letter from the Chairman to Mr. Dundas in reply, dated the ſame day.

No. 4.

LIST of Papers reſpecting the Negociation for a Renewal of the Eaſt-India Company's Excluſive Trade, printed by the Court of Directors for the Information of the Proprietors.

No. I.

Letter from the Right Honourable Henry Dundas to the Chairman, dated the 26th March, 1793; encloſing

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Reſolutions referred to in the above letter.

No. III.

Letter from the Right Honourable Henry Dundas to the Chairman, dated the 27th March, 1793.

No. IV.

Letter from the Chairman to Mr. Dundas in reply, dated the ſame day.

No. 1.

Letter from the Right Honourable Henry Dundas to the Chairman, dated the 26th March 1793.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you, for the information of the East-India Company, the resolutions which have been taken by government and trade of Ireland, both Houses, topping the allowance of what I propose to bring forward in Parliament, if I am warranted to suppose that the East-India Company acquiesce in the encouragement thereby given to the trade and manufactures of Great Britain and Ireland, and in the suggestions held out for putting an end to the clandestine trade now carried on between the two countries.

I think it right to observe, that although I have spreable to the conferences with Mr. Peele and the deputation from Manchester, drawn the resolutions on the idea of a total prohibition of the use of muslins in this country; I am aware that many [illegible] immediately interested, understood [illegible] perfectly persuaded, on the most mature consideration, I can give to the subject, that those who urge the regard, are acting in too narrow a view of it, I think it highly probable, that part of the question may admit a revision, with the acquiescence of the gentlemen who have pressed it upon us.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient humble servant,

Whitehall,
26th March, 1793.

HENRY DUNDAS.

Francis Baring, Esq.

No. I.

Letter from the Right Honourable Henry Dundas to the Chairman, dated the 26th March, 1793.

SIR,

I HAVE the honour to tranſmit to you, for the information of the Eaſt-India Company, ſome reſolutions concerning the future government and trade of India; theſe reſolutions contain the ſubſtance of what I propoſe to bring forward in Parliament, if I am warranted to ſuppoſe that the Eaſt-India Company acquieſce in the encouragement thereby given to the trade and manufactures of Great Britain and Ireland, and in the ſuggeſtions held out for putting an end to the clandeſtine trade now carried on between India and Europe.

I think it right to obſerve, that although I have, agreeable to the conferences with Mr. Peele and the delegates from Mancheſter, drawn the reſolutions on the idea of a total prohibition of the uſe of muſlins in this country; I am aware that matter will, at the inſtance of thoſe immediately intereſted, undergo a further conſideration; and as I am perfectly perſuaded, on the moſt mature conſideration I can give to the ſubject, that thoſe who urge the requeſt, are acting in too narrow a view of it, I think it highly probable, that part of the queſtion may admit a reviſion, with the acquieſcence of the gentlemen who have preſſed it upon us.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Whitehall,
26th March, 1793.

HENRY DUNDAS.

Francis Baring, Eſq.

No. II.

Reſolutions referred to in the foregoing Letter.

No. 1. THAT all the territorial acquiſitions obtained in the Eaſt-Indies, with the revenues of the ſame, ſhall remain in the poſſeſſion of the ſaid Company during their further term in the excluſive trade, without prejudice to the claims of the Public or the Company; ſubject nevertheleſs to ſuch ſuperintendance and controul, and ſubject alſo to ſuch appropriations of the territorial revenues and profits of trade as ſhall be now, *or hereafter* made or provided, by authority of Parliament.

2. That Commiſſioners to be appointed by His Majeſty, ſhall form a Board, and be inveſted with authority to ſuperintend, direct and controul all acts, operations and concerns which relate to the civil or military government, or revenues, of the Britiſh poſſeſſions in India, in like manner as the Commiſſioners appointed by virtue of an act of the twenty-fourth year of his preſent Majeſty, entitled "An Act for the better Regulation and Management of the Affairs of the Eaſt-India Company "and of the Britiſh Poſſeſſions in India, and for eſtabliſhing a Court "of Judicature for the more ſpeedy and effectual Trial of Perſons "accuſed of Offences committed in the Eaſt-Indies," were impowered to do by the ſaid act, or by any other act or acts of parliament, with ſuch further power, and under and ſubject to ſuch directions for the appropriation of the ſaid revenues, and ſuch other rules, regulations, and reſtrictions in regard to the ſaid civil and military government and revenues, as by any act or acts of parliament ſhall be made or provided.

3. That the ſalaries and allowances, and all charges and expences attending the execution of His Majeſty's commiſſion, in that behalf, ſhall be paid and defrayed, quarterly, by the ſaid Company, on a certificate of the amount thereof under the hand of the Preſident of the ſaid Board for the time being, to the Court of Directors of the ſaid Company; provided, that ſuch quarterly amount ſhall in no wiſe exceed the ſum of £.

4. That it is proper to veſt the government of the Preſidency of Fort William in Bengal, in a Governor-general and three Counſellors, and to veſt the government of each of the Preſidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay reſpectively, in a Governor and three Counſellors, with ſuch powers, and under ſuch regulations, as by any act or acts of parliament,

liament, the Governor-general, Governors and Counſellors of the ſaid Preſidencies reſpectively have been or are inveſted with for the government thereof.

5. That it is expedient to continue the power veſted in His Majeſty to recal any of the Company's officers and ſervants in India, ſuch recal being ſignified to the Directors by an inſtrument in writing under His Majeſty's ſign manual, counterſigned by the Preſident of the Board of Commiſſioners for the affairs of India.

6. That it appears to be fit and proper to continue to the Eaſt-India Company their excluſive trade, within the limits now enjoyed by them, for a further term of twenty years, to be computed from the 1ſt of March, 1794, liable to be diſcontinued at the end of ſuch period, if three years notice ſhall previouſly be given by Parliament, ſubject nevertheleſs to the regulations herein-after ſpecified for promoting the export of goods, wares, and merchandizes of the growth, produce, or manufacture of Great Britain or Ireland, and for encouraging individuals to carry on trade to and from the Eaſt-Indies.

7. That it ſhall be lawful for any of His Majeſty's ſubjects reſident in Great Britain, or in any other of His Majeſty's European dominions, to xport from the port of London, in ſhips to be provided by the Eaſt-India Company, on the proper riſque and account of the exporters, to any of the ports or places uſually viſited by the ſhips of the ſaid Company, on the ſeveral Coaſts of Malabar and Coromandel, or the Bay of Bengal, in the Eaſt-Indies, or the Iſland of Sumatra, any goods, wares, or merchandizes of the growth, produce, or manufacture of the ſaid dominions, except military ſtores and ammunition, maſts, ſpars, cordage, anchors, pitch, tar and copper.

8. That it ſhall be lawful for any of His Majeſty's European ſubjects, in the ſervice of the ſaid Company in India, or being reſident by leave or licence of the ſaid Company, or under their protection, to conſign and put on board the ſhips of the ſaid Company bound to Great Britain, any goods, wares, or merchandize, in order to the ſame being imported on the riſque and account of the private owners thereof, at the port of London.

N. B. It may remain for conſideration, whether the article of piece goods ſhould not be excepted.

9. That the Company be laid under an obligation, to provide at reaſonable rates of freight, between the 31ſt day of October in each year, and the 1ſt day of February in the following year, not leſs than 3000 tons of ſhipping, for the purpoſe of carrying out to India, the private trade of individuals, and for bringing back the returns of the ſame,

and

and the private trade of other perſons who ſhall be lawfully entitled to import the ſame into this kingdom, and that further regulations ſhall be made for augmenting the ſaid quantity of tonnage, as circumſtances may require.

10. That in time of peace the rate of freight to be paid by the exporters of goods from Great Britain to India, ſhall not exceed £.5 per ton, and that the rate of freight to be paid by the importers of goods from India into Great Britain, ſhall not exceed £.15 per ton, or ſuch further ſum, as together with the freight paid on the exports to India, ſhall not on the whole freight to and from India, exceed £.20 per ton, and that in times of war or hoſtilities between Great Britain and any European power, the ſaid reſpective rates ſhall and may be encreaſed, in a due proportion to the additional rates of tonnage paid by the Company, for the hire of ſhips for their own trade, and after no higher rate or proportion.

11. That no perſon ſhall be entitled to export goods on board the ſhips, to be provided by the Company in any ſeaſon, unleſs they ſhall give notice in writing to the chief Secretary of the ſaid Company, before the laſt day of Auguſt in each year, for the ſhips of the enſuing ſeaſon, ſpecifying the quantity of tonnage required; nor unleſs they ſhall pay into the Company's treaſury before that day, one moiety of the freight for the ſame, the other moiety to be paid on the goods being ſhipped, or give ſuch ſecurity for the payment thereof, as ſhall be ſatisfactory to the Court of Directors.

12. That no perſon ſhall be entitled to put any goods on board of the ſhips of the ſaid Company in India, in any ſeaſon unleſs they ſhall give notice in writing, to the Secretary or other proper Officer, at the reſpective Preſidencies abroad, within ſuch reaſonable and convenient time, as ſhall be limited and appointed for that purpoſe, by the reſpective Governments of the ſaid Preſidencies, and make ſuch depoſits in the Treaſuries there, or otherwiſe give ſuch ſecurity, as the ſaid reſpective Governments ſhall deem reaſonable for the performance of their engagement, in reſpect to the quantity of tonnage, ſpecified in the ſaid notices.

13. That if any vacant tonnage ſhall remain not engaged by individuals, either in Great Britain or India, after the times limited for giving ſuch notices reſpectively, the ſame ſhall and may be occupied by the goods of the ſaid Company, and that if the whole quantity of tonnage required for private trade in any year, either in Great Britain or India, ſhall exceed the whole quantity of tonnage, which the Company are bound to provide in ſuch year reſpectively, in that caſe, the whole of the tonnage provided, ſhall be diſtributed amongſt

the parties requiring the ſame, in proportion to the quantities ſpecified in their reſpective notices.

14. That all perſons reſiding in India in the ſervice of the ſaid Company (Governors and Members of Council and their Secretaries, Judicial Officers, Officers of revenue, Members of the Commercial Boards, Company's Supra-Cargoes, and the Agents employed at the Aurungs, or otherwiſe concerned in the proviſion of the Company's inveſtments excepted) and all perſons not being in the ſervice of the Company, but reſiding in India, by their leave or licenſe ſhall be permitted to act as Commercial Agents, Managers or Conſignees on the behalf of ſuch perſons as ſhall think fit to employ them as well in the diſpoſal of their export goods as in providing ſuch other kinds of goods as may by Law be imported into Great-Britain on their private account, without incurring any penalty in reſpect thereof.

15. That if upon any repreſentation made to the Court of Directors, by or on the behalf of the private traders, of the want of a ſufficient number of perſons reſident in India, for the conduct and management of the private trade, duly authorized and qualified for that purpoſe; the ſaid Court ſhall fail to licenſe a further number of free merchants, to the ſatisfaction of the ſaid private traders, it ſhall be lawful for the ſaid traders to repreſent the ſame to the board of

The Company may fill up this blank either by the Commiſſioners of the Treaſury, the Committee of Council for matters of trade, or the Commiſſioners for the affairs of India, as they may think fit.

and that the Court of Directors ſhall be thereupon obliged to licenſe a proper and ſufficient number of perſons to reſide at their ſettlements in India, in the character of free merchants with the approbation of the ſaid board.

16. That the duty of £.3 per cent. payable to the ſaid Company, by virtue of an act of the ninth and tenth years of King William the IIId, on the value of goods imported from the Eaſt-Indies, or other places within the limits of their excluſive trade, be diſcontinued, and that a duty not exceeding 3 per cent. on the true and real *value* or ſale amount of all goods imported from the ſaid limits into Great-Britain in private trade, be granted in lieu thereof, and that the ſame be accepted or retained by the ſaid Company, out of the proceeds of ſuch goods as the contributory ſhare, a proportion of the private traders for the expences of the ſaid Company in reſpect of the ſaid private trade.

17. That it is fit and proper to provide that the following kinds of raw materials imported from India on the private account of individuals, viz.

ſhall upon requiſition made for that purpoſe by the importers at any time after the landing, and before the ſale thereof, be valued by

and upon payment made of the ſaid duty of 3 per cent. on their eſtimated value with the duties of cuſtoms (if any) and the charges of freight ſhall and may be delivered over to the importers thereof, without being expoſed to ſale, and that all other goods imported in private trade, and alſo all raw materials of the deſcription aforeſaid, which ſhall not be delivered over to the importers thereof upon requiſition, ſhall be depoſited in the Company's warehouſes, and ſold on the account of the Owners by inch of candle at the office of the Company, and the prices thereof paid into the Company's treaſury for the uſe of the ſaid Owners, and that all manner of goods imported by, or on the account of individuals, ſave as may be otherwiſe ſpecially provided or directed, ſhall be in all reſpects ſold, managed, diſpoſed and conducted according to the bye-laws of the ſaid Company for the management of private and privileged trade.

18. That it is fit and proper that all reſtraints laid by law on the ſervants of the Company are now in force, whereby they are impeded or reſtricted in the recovery of their juſt debts or other demands in foreign parts, in whatever mode ſuch debts may have been contracted, or ſuch demands incurred, ſhould be removed.

19. That all the clear revenues ariſing from the Britiſh territories in India ſhall, during the further term to be granted in the excluſive trade, be

applied and diſpoſed of as follow (that is to ſay) In the firſt place in defraying all the charges and expences of raiſing, and maintaining the forces, as well Europeans as native military and marine on the eſtabliſhments in India, and of maintaining the forts and garriſons there, and providing warlike and naval ſtores: Secondly, In payment of the intereſt accruing on the debts owing, or which may be hereafter incurred by the Company in India: Thirdly, In defraying the civil and commercial eſtabliſhments of the ſaid Company at their ſeveral ſettlements: Fourthly, That there ſhall be iſſued to the reſpective commercial Boards of the ſaid Company at their ſeveral Preſidencies in India, in ſuch proportions as the Court of Directors, with the approbation of the Commiſſioners for the Affairs of India, ſhall from time to time direct, a ſum of not leſs than one crore of current rupees in every year to be applied in the proviſion of the Company's Inveſtment of goods for Europe: And Fifthly, That as often as any part of the ſaid debts ſhall be redeemed or diſcharged in India or transferred from thence to Great Britain, the Court of Directors with the conſent of the ſaid Board, ſhall be authorized to increaſe the annual advancement to the ſaid commercial boards for the proviſion of their inveſtments abroad in the ſame extent to which the intereſt of the debts in India ſhall be reduced by ſuch extinction and transfers reſpectively, if the trade from India ſhall admit of, or require ſuch annual increaſe; or otherwiſe that the ſurplus thus accruing ſhall be applied to the liquidation of the debts in India, or to ſuch other uſes and purpoſes as the Court of Directors, with the approbation of the Commiſſioners for the Affairs of India, ſhall direct.

20. That a proportion of the debts owing by the Company in India, not exceeding fifty lacs of rupees, or £. 500,000 per annum, be remitted home by bills from the ſeveral Reſidencies on the Court of Directors, at equitable rates of exchange; and in caſe the creditors ſhall not ſubſcribe to the above amount annually, but prefer being paid their reſpective claims in India, then that the governor-general in council of Bengal ſhall be authorized to raiſe money for that purpoſe, by granting bills of exchange on the Court of Directors, at the like rates as for other money paid into the Company's treaſury at Fort William, and apply the ſums ſo raiſed, or whatever ſurplus may remain, after providing for the Company's inveſtment of goods to the diſcharge of ſuch debts, until the total of the debts, bearing intereſt in India, ſhall be reduced to a ſum not exceeding three crores of current rupees, or 3,000,000 ſterling.

That during the continuance of the exclusive trade to the said Company, the net proceeds of their sales of goods in England, with their profits arising by private or privilege trade, or in any other manner, after providing for the current payment of interest and other outgoings, charges and expences of the said Company, shall be applied and disposed of in the following manner (that is to say): First, in payment of a dividend after the rate of £10. cent. per annum on the present or any future amount of the capital stock of the said Company, such payment to commence at Midsummer 1793. Secondly, in payment of a sum not exceeding £500,000 per annum for the discharge of bills of exchange, to be drawn for the transfer and diminution of the debts of the said Company, in India, until the same shall be reduced to a sum not exceeding three crores of current rupees, or three millions sterling: Thirdly, in payment of a sum not exceeding £500,000 on the day of in every year, into the receipt of His Majesty's Exchequer, to be applied as Parliament shall direct; the first payment thereof to commence and be accounted due on the day of 1794, and in the event of any deficiency of the said funds in any year for satisfying such last mentioned payments into His Majesty's Exchequer, the same be made good out of any surplus which may remain from the said net proceeds in any subsequent year, after the payment of the annual sum of £.500,000 into His Majesty's Exchequer in each year respectively; and that when and so often as the said debts in India shall have been reduced to the amount aforesaid, and the bond debt in Great Britain to £.1,500,000; the surplus of the said net proceeds, after such provisions made as aforesaid; and after payment of a dividend after the said rate of £10. per cent. per annum on the said capital stock, and the said annual sum of £.500,000 into the Exchequer; and after making good all former deficiencies in the said annual payments (if any such shall happen) shall be applied and disposed in manner following, that is to say: One-sixth part of the said surplus shall be reserved and retained by the said United Company for their own use, and applied in augmentation of the dividends on their said capital stock, and the residue of the said surplus shall be set apart; and, from time to time, paid into the receipt of His Majesty's Exchequer, to be applied as Parliament shall direct, without any interest to be paid to the Company, in respect or for the use thereof; but, nevertheless, to be considered and declared as a collateral security to the said Company, for the said capital stock, and for the dividend of 10 per cent. thereupon.

That

22. That the Court of Directors of the said Company should, within the first fourteen sitting days next after the 30th day of March in every year, lay before both Houses of Parliament an account made up according to the latest advices of the annual produce of the revenues of the British territories in India, distinguishing the same under the several heads thereof, at (their several) presidencies or settlements, with the amount of sales of goods and stores, within the limits of their exclusive trade, and of all their annual disbursements within the said limits, distinguishing the same under the respective heads thereof, and the amount of their debts abroad, with the rates of interest they respectively carry, and the annual amount of such interest, and the state of their effects at each presidency or settlement, consisting of cash and bills in the treasuries, goods and stores, and debts owing to the Company, according to the latest advices; together with a list of their several establishments abroad, and the salaries and allowances payable by the said Company at each presidency or settlement; and also another annual account made up to the first day of March next preceding the delivery thereof to Parliament, containing the amount of the proceeds of the Company's sales at home, and of their commercial and other charges and payments in Great Britain, under the several heads thereof; and of their bond debts and simple contract debts, with the rates of interest they respectively carry, and the annual amount of such interest, and the state of the cash remaining in the treasury, and other effects appertaining to the Company at home or afloat.

23. That from and after the day of 179 all manner of callicoes, muslins, dimities, and other cotton piece goods, manufactured in India, China, or Persia, or other parts of Asia, or in any other foreign ports beyond the Cape of Good Hope, which are or shall be imported into this kingdom, should be prohibited from being worn or used within the realm of Great Britain.

24. That all callicoes, muslins, dimities, and other cotton piece goods which will be prohibited to be worn in Great Britain should, after entry thereof, be forthwith carried and put into such warehouses as shall for that purpose be appointed by the Commissioners of the Customs for the time being, and there kept until the exportation thereof; and that the several laws and statutes made and now in force, for or concerning the sale and exportation of wrought silks, Bengal stuffs, and painted, dyed, printed or stained callicoes, prohibited to be worn in England, should be extended to callicoes, muslins, dimities, and other cotton piece goods manufactured in Persia, China, East-India, or other foreign parts.

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25. That for ſecuring to this kingdom the benefit of the traffick in, and carrying trade of callicoes, muſlins, dimities, and other cotton piece goods manufactured in Perſia, China, India, or other parts within the limits of the Company's trade, in order to the re-exportation of the ſaid articles; it is fit and proper the whole of the duties now payable on the importation thereof, ſhould for ſo long time as the ſame ſhall be prohibited from being worn or uſed in this kingdom, ceaſe and be diſcontinued.

26. That in the preſent circumſtances of the Eaſt-India Company, they ſhould be enabled to raiſe a ſum of money by adding one million pounds capital ſtock to their preſent capital of five million pounds, ſo as to make their whole capital ſtock in future ſix millions; and that ſuch addition be made by opening a ſubſcription to the amount of the ſaid one million pounds capital ſtock, at the rate of _____ for every £.100 of ſuch capital ſtock, or at ſuch other rate as the Court of Directors of the ſaid Company, with the approbation of the Commiſſioners of the Treaſury, ſhall direct; and that the ſubſcribers to the ſame be declared entitled to the like profits, benefits, and privileges, in reſpect thereof, as the Proprietors of Eaſt-India ſtock are, or may be entitled to, in reſpect of their preſent ſtock.

27. That the ſaid Company ſhall apply a ſufficient part of the ſum to be raiſed by the ſaid ſubſcription in the reduction of their bond debt to the ſum of £.1,500,000.

28. That the ſaid Company be prohibited from again encreaſing their bond debt beyond the ſaid amount of £.1,500,000.

No. III.

Letter from Mr. Dundas to the Chairman, dated the 27th March, 1793.

SIR,

I DID not get from the Houſe of Commons till one this morning, and am obliged to go to Whitehall early, ſo that I ſhall have no opportunity of ſeeing you before the Court meets to-day. Indeed it does not appear material that I ſhould, for if the Eaſt-India Company are not in any hurry to bring the arrangement to a cloſe, there does not ſeem to be any other perſon intereſted in preſſing it. A ſum of £.500,000 cannot create any material inconvenience to the Public under the extenſive proviſion Mr. Pitt has made for the ſervices of the year; and although I have met with the greateſt candour and fairneſs

in

in the diſcuſſions I have had with the manufacturers and others intereſted in this extenſive buſineſs; and I believe they are diſpoſed to acquieſce in the different propoſitions I have tranſmitted to you in my letters of Saturday laſt, ſtill they will not feel any diſappointment, but the reverſe, if the iſſue of the buſineſs ſhall be ſuch an end of the excluſive charter, as to allow them all to try their experiments on their own bottom, and independent of the ſhipping of the Company, I have an opinion that they will find themſelves miſtaken in the proſpects they have formed, but they very naturally are diſpoſed to confide more in their own ſpeculations than in mine.

I am likewiſe free to declare to you, that I think the Eaſt-India Company greatly over value the advantages of an excluſive trade to India; for the ſame reaſons that induce me to be ſatisfied that the merchants and manufacturers of Great Britain and Ireland are under a deluſion in their expectations from a freedom in trade, induce me likewiſe to believe that the Eaſt-India Company, under all the advantages, they muſt continue to poſſeſs, and if they think proper to act on the true principles of commercial œconomy, put by much too high a value on the excluſive right they at preſent act under. I think it may admit of a doubt how far in another view the excluſive charter may not be material for the Public ſervice, as affording known and effectual means of conſolidating and collecting together the various intereſts of Great Britain reſpecting its empire in India; and I am not finally prepared to decide whether this can be done equally well through any other means. At the ſame time, if I was obliged to form an immediate deciſion on ſo important a queſtion, I ſhould rather be diſpoſed to think, that through the Eaſt-India Company, as the medium of Government in India, and the channel of remittance from it, the purpoſes of the Public may be effectually ſerved without the aid of an excluſive trade to India.

You will obſerve that in all I have ſaid, I deſire to be underſtood as ſpeaking of India properly ſo called, excluſive of the China trade, for a very ſuperficial view of the ſubject, muſt ſatisfy any body that a different mode of reaſoning is applicable to theſe two channels of trade.

Upon theſe grounds you will perceive there is no neceſſity for hurrying either yourſelves or the Proprietors one moment faſter than you find convenient. The propoſitions I conveyed to you are ſuch, as I think myſelf warranted to recommend to Parliament as conformable to the principles I ſtated to you in my original letter which has been the baſis of my interviews with the various claſſes of perſons I have converſed

verſed with; after all the trouble I have had, I may be ſuppoſed perſonally to entertain a wiſh that it ſhould lead to a final arrangement; as to that circumſtance however, I feel very little anxiety and am perfectly ready when the time comes to take up the conſideration of a new arrangement on a new ſyſtem, but on the ſyſtem of an excluſive charter being renewed to the East-India Company, I do not feel any grounds to depart from the ſuggeſtions I have already tranſmitted to you.

You will of courſe lay before the Proprietors the correſpondence and reſolutions I have tranſmitted to you. The ſubject will then be fully before them, and they will judge as they think beſt for their intereſt, always recollecting that the excluſive charter at any rate expires on the 1ſt of March, 1794.

I am, SIR,

with great regard,

your moſt obedient humble ſervant,

Wedneſday Morning, 8 A. M.
27th March, 1793.

HENRY DUNDAS.

No. IV.

Letter from the Chairman to Mr. Dundas, in reply, dated the 27th March 1793.

SIR,

THE Committee having prepared anſwers to the ſeveral papers which you tranſmitted to me on Saturday, together with ſuch remarks and obſervations as occurred to them, on the Memorial relative to the clandeſtine trade from India; and the ſame having been approved by the Court of Directors, and encloſed under a ſeparate cover for your information.

I received yeſterday, at a late hour, the honor of your letter, encloſing copy of 28 reſolutions, which you meant to lay before the Houſe of Commons, relative to the East-India Company. The Committee of Correſpendence in deliberating thereon, were happy to perceive your concurrence in many opinions, which they have adopted.

This day I have received another letter from you, relative to the reſolutions, and containing many other very important ſuggeſtions, on the buſineſs now under conſideration.

On

On a perusal of the resolutions yesterday at a late hour; the Committee were satisfied that it would be impossible for them, or for the Court of Directors to consider their contents; for the purpose of submitting such explanations as may be necessary for their constituents, previous to the meeting of the General Court on Thursday.

But after communicating those resolutions, together with your letters, the Court of Directors have determined to request the indulgence from their constituents to adjourn the consideration of the business until the ensuing week, by which means the Committee will be enabled to take further their consideration with that attention which the importance of the subject requires.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

East India House,
27th March, 1793.

F. BARING.

The Right Honourable Henry Dundas, &c. &c. &c.